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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether the Government after consulting their officers have decided to introduce a Record of Rights Bill ?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" They have no such intention now."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether there have not been some changes in the Revenue accounts in order to bring in a Bill of this nature, and whether such changes have not been in existence for some time ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I must ask for notice, Sir."

Land Revenue

Rates of seigniorage in South Kanara district.

* 18 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the various rates of seigniorage charged in the different parts of the South Kanara district at present ?

A.—A statement is laid on the table.[a]

Collection of seigniorage in kumki and non-kumki areas in South Kanura.

* 19 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any and, if so, what seigniorage is being charged for sandalwood and dalchini (cinnamon) plants and trees in kumki and non-kumki areas in South Kanara and what proportion of the former goes to the wargdar ;

(b) from what date or period it is being so charged ;

(c) whether it is a fact that prior to about two years no such fee was being charged in kumki areas ; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to stop the collection of such fees in kumkis ?

A.—(a) For the seigniorage rates on sandal and cinnamon trees the hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 18 as to the seigniorage rates charged. When kumki lands are assigned on darkhast to the kumkidar, two-thirds of the value of sandalwood trees containing heartwood is recovered from the assignee, the value of all other trees being foregone.

(b) 1925.

(c) Yes, previous to 1925.

(d) The Government see no reason to adopt the course suggested. Kumki privileges are intended to serve domestic and agricultural purposes whereas the value of sandalwood is purely commercial.

Free assignment of lands to the depressed classes in South Kanara.

* 20 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have come to any decision regarding the question of giving lands free of assessment to the depressed classes in South Kanara till the lands become productive ?

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on pages 102–111 infra.

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A.—A report has been received from the Board of Revenue on the subject and is under the consideration of the Government.

Kumki privileges of ryots in South Kanara.

* 21 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that several holdings of ryots near reserves in South Kanara have no kumki privileges ?

A.—The Government have not the information.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"May I know whether the Government cannot get this information ?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I do not think that any useful purpose will be served by obtaining the information."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"May I know, Sir, why the hon. Member thinks that no useful purpose will be served by getting this information ?" (Laughter.)

Restrictions on the privilege of taking timber from kumki lands.

* 22 *Q.*—Mr. K. R. KARANT : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are orders preventing a kumkidar from taking with the permission of Government any timber he requires from kumki for building his house in a different village from the one in which the kumki is situated ;

(*b*) whether such restrictions have been recently made and if so, since when, and for what reasons ; and

(*c*) whether Government propose to restore the privilege, and if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*) The permission of the Collector is necessary. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the following rule framed under section 26 of the Madras Forest Act :—

(Rule 7-A at page 38 of the Forest Manual—available in the Council Library.)

* * * * *

"The holder of land to which kumki privileges are attached may enjoy in the kumki land free of charge such privileges as he has hitherto enjoyed in the way of grazing cattle, or of cutting, converting, collecting and removing trees, timber and other forest produce, subject to the following conditions :—

(1) That the trees, timber and other forest produce shall be used only for agricultural or domestic purposes *in the village* in which the kumki land is situated, or in such other villages as the Collector may permit in writing. It shall be open to the Collector to decide, either generally or in special cases, what shall be considered agricultural or domestic purposes within the meaning of this rule."

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